

# PATENT SPECIFICATION

NO DRAWINGS

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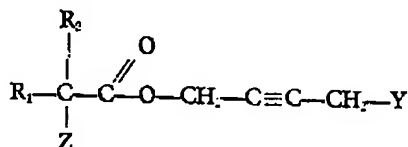
## COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

### Aminoacetylenes and Process for Preparing the Same

We, MEAD JOHNSON & COMPANY, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Indiana, United States of America, of Evansville, State of Indiana, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us and the method by which it is to be performed to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to certain aminoacetylenes, processes for preparing them, and the pharmaceutically-acceptable acid-addition salts thereof.

Specifically, the present invention provides a compound having the general formula



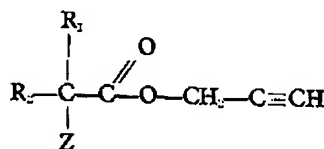
wherein  $R_1$  is a phenyl, benzyl, cyclohexyl or alpha-thienyl group;  $R_2$  is a phenyl or benzyl group;  $Z$  is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, methoxy, ethoxy or methylthio group; and  $Y$  is a di- $C_1$  to  $C_6$ -alkylamino, piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino group; and the pharmacologically-acceptable acid-addition salts of these compounds.

Preferably,  $Y$  is a dialkylamino group containing 2 to 6 carbon atoms and preferably  $R_1$  is phenyl or benzyl in such cases.

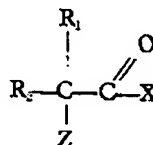
The present invention also provides a process for preparing a compound as defined

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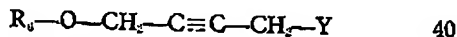
above which comprises reacting a derivative of 1-propyne-3-ol having the general formula



with formaldehyde (e.g. in the form of para-formaldehyde) and a compound of the general formula  $H-Y$ ; or reacting a compound of the general formula



with a compound of the general formula



wherein in the above formulae  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $Y$  and  $Z$  are as defined above and  $Z$  may also be a halogen atom,  $X$  is a halogen atom or a  $C_1$  to  $C_6$  alkoxy radical and  $R_3$  is a hydrogen atom or a formyl, acetyl or propionyl group, and, where  $Z$  is a halogen atom, hydrolytically cleaving  $Z$  to form the corresponding product wherein  $Z$  is a hydroxyl group.

In a preferred embodiment of the second

part of the above-defined process wherein X is chlorine, R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, Y is a piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino group, the acyl chloride is reacted with the 4-amino-butynol in the presence of an alkaline reaction medium.

The pharmacologically acceptable acid-addition salts may be prepared by reacting the compound with the acid corresponding to the acid radical in the required acid-addition salt.

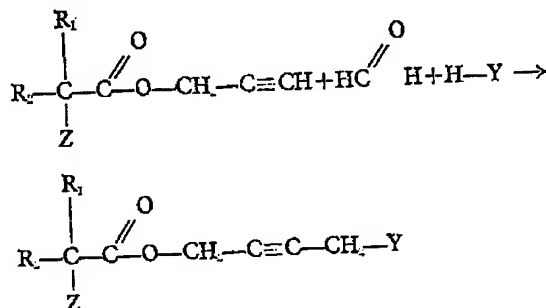
The compounds of the present invention have utility as antispasmodics and local anaesthetics. The dosage for mammals is from 0.1 to 5.0 milligrams per kilogram of body weight in the case of administration for

the relief of muscle spasms. The compounds may be administered orally in the form of elixirs, tablets, powders, suspensions or the like, or may be administered intravenously. When used as local anaesthetics the compounds are preferably administered topically or by infiltration of the tissue at concentrations of, 0.25% to 2.0%.

The preparation of the compounds of this invention is described herein below.

#### METHOD A

This method comprises a modified Mannich reaction of an acetylene with an aldehyde and an amine. The reaction proceeds as follows:



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and Z are as previously defined and Y as a di-C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino group, or a piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino group.

The group Z may also be a halogen atom and, where it is, is hydrolytically cleaved to the corresponding product wherein Z is a hydroxyl group. The following examples indicate the preparation of certain of these compounds by Method A.

#### EXAMPLE I

4 - DIMETHYLAMINO - 2 - BUTYNYL DI-PHENYLACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—Parafomaldehyde, 1.56 g. (0.052 mole), and 2.0 g. (0.044 mole) of dimethylamine were dissolved in 10 ml. of dry dioxane and allowed to stand at room temperature for ten minutes. A solution of propargyl diphenylacetate, 10 g. (0.04 mole) dissolved in 25 ml. of dry dioxane, was then added to the reaction mixture and the mixture was heated on a steam bath for seventeen hours under an atmosphere of nitrogen. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool slightly, and the unreacted dimethylamine was removed by evaporation under reduced pressure. Hydrochloric acid (2 N) was then added to the mixture, and the resultant acidic

solution was washed with ether. The acidic solution was cooled with crushed ice and basified with 10% sodium hydroxide solution. The insoluble oil which precipitated was taken up in ether and the ether solution was dried over magnesium sulphate. The drying agent was filtered off and dry hydrochloric acid was passed into the solution to precipitate the hydrochloride salt: m.p. 180—181.5° C. (dec.) from n-propanol.

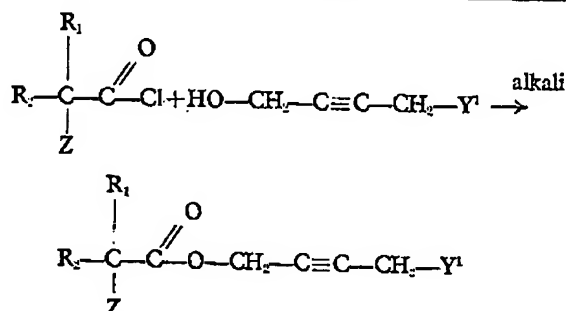
#### EXAMPLE II

4 - PYRROLIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL DI-PHENYLACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the procedure of Example I, using however pyrrolidine in place of the dimethylamine (in the same molar proportion). The reactants were heated on the steam bath for 40 hours. The hydrochloride salt of the product crystallized from ethylacetate-propanol melted at 140—142° C.

#### METHOD B:

This method comprises the esterification by the reaction of acyl halides and 4-substituted-amino-2-butynols in alkaline reaction media typified by the following equation in which the acyl halide is an acyl chloride:

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wherein  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{Z}$  are as previously defined, and  $\text{Y}^1$  is a pyrrolidino, piperidino or morpholino group. In a particular embodiment of Method B, the acyl halide may have an alpha-halo substituent. In this embodiment the esterification is conducted as above and after the esterification the alpha-halogen atom is hydrolytically cleaved from the ester product to produce a compound in which the substituent  $\text{Z}$  is a hydroxyl group. The following Examples illustrate preparation of these products by Method B and the particular embodiment thereof.

#### EXAMPLE III

4 - PIPERIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL DIPHENYL-ACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE. — Fifteen grams (0.065 mole) of diphenylacetylchloride was slowly added to 10.0 g. (0.065 mole) of 4 - piperidino - 2 - butynol [prepared by the reaction of 1-chloro-4-hydroxy-2-butyne and piperidine (b.p.  $116^\circ \text{C}$ , 1.4 mm. Hg. (abs.);  $n_D^{20}$  1.5094)], dissolved in 30 ml. of dry pyridine. An exothermic reaction followed and subsided after five to ten minutes. The reaction mixture was then heated on a steam bath for one hour, cooled and poured onto crushed ice and water. The resultant aqueous solution was extracted with two 50 ml. portions of ether and the extracts were combined and washed with several 10-ml. portions of 2 N hydrochloric acid until most of the residual pyridine was removed. The ether solution was washed with water and dried over magnesium sulphate. The drying agent was filtered off and dry hydrochloric acid was passed into the ether solution to form the hydrochloride salt of the expected product. The hydrochloride salt was washed with dry ether and recrystallized from ethyl acetate; m.p.  $155\text{--}156.50^\circ \text{C}$ .

#### EXAMPLE IV

4 - PYRROLIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL BENZYL-ATE HYDROCHLORIDE. — 7 - Chlorodiphenylacetylchloride, 17.2 g. (0.065 mole) was dissolved in about 40 ml. of dry pyridine and 7.0 g. (0.065 mole) of 4-pyrrolidino-2-butyne [prepared by the reaction of 1-chloro-4-hydroxy-2-butyne and

pyrrolidine (b.p.  $98\text{--}104^\circ \text{C}$ , 1.0 mm. Hg. (abs.);  $n_D^{20}$  1.5055)] was slowly added to the solution with stirring. When the ensuing vigorous reaction subsided, the mixture was heated on a steam bath for one-half hour.

The reaction mixture was then poured onto crushed ice and water and the resulting aqueous mixture was extracted with ether. The combined ether extracts were washed with water, extracted with 2 N hydrochloric acid, and the acidic extract was heated on a steam bath for five minutes. The mixture was cooled and basified with 10% sodium hydroxide. The viscous oil which separated from the aqueous solution was taken up in ether and the ether was dried over magnesium sulphate. The drying agent was filtered off and the ether was evaporated, leaving a pale yellow solid. Trituration with ether removed the yellow impurity; m.p.  $108\text{--}111.5^\circ \text{C}$ . from aqueous ethanol.

The free base was partially dissolved in anhydrous ether and dry hydrochloric acid was passed into the solution. The resulting hydrochloride salt was filtered onto a Buchner funnel, washed with ether, dried, and recrystallized from ethyl acetate-ethanol; m.p.  $132.5\text{--}134.5^\circ \text{C}$ .

#### EXAMPLE V

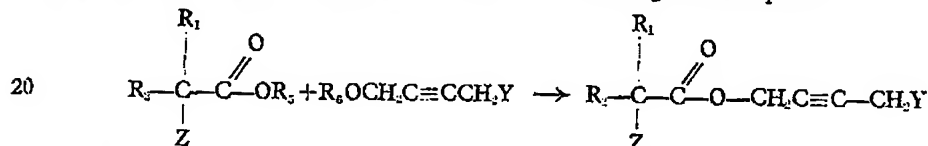
4 - PIPERIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL DIPHENYL ISOBUTYRATE HYDROCHLORIDE. — Diphenylisobutyryl chloride, 18.1 g. (0.07 mole) and 21.0 g. (0.21 mole) of triethylamine were cautiously mixed with 85 ml. of anhydrous benzene. To this stirring mixture, 10.1 g. (0.07 mole) of 4-piperidino-2-butyne, dissolved in 20 ml. of dry benzene was added dropwise. After the addition of the amino alcohol was completed, the reaction mixture was heated on the steam bath for three hours, cooled and poured onto crushed ice and water. The organic layer was separated, washed with water, and extracted with several 5-ml. portions of 2 N hydrochloric acid until the extracts began to contain product (the extracts were made basic to check if product was being extracted). After all excess triethylamine was removed by the method just described, the benzene solution was extracted

with 2 N hydrochloric acid. The acidic extracts were combined, cooled in an ice bath, and made strongly basic with 10% sodium hydroxide. An oil separated which was taken up in ether. The ether solution was washed with water and dried over magnesium sulphate. The drying agent was filtered off and dry hydrochloric acid was passed into the ether solution to precipitate the hydrochloride salt of the desired product.

The hydrochloride was recrystallized from benzene, m.p. 156.5—158.5° C.

#### METHOD C:

This method of preparing the compounds of the present invention comprises transesterification of a lower alkyl ester of a substituted acetic acid with a substituted aminobutynol or lower aliphatic ester thereof according to the equation:



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $Z$  and  $Y$  are as described above,  $R_3$  is a  $C_1$  to  $C_6$  alkyl group, for example a methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, or isopropyl group, and  $R_4$  is hydrogen or a formyl, acetyl, or propionyl group. The reaction is carried out preferably by heating the two reactants in the presence of a transesterification catalyst, for example sodium or potassium metal, or a lower alkoxide thereof, for example sodium methoxide, sodium ethoxide, or potassium t-butoxide. The group  $Z$  may also be a halogen atom and, where it is,  $Z$  is hydrolytically cleaved to the corresponding product wherein  $Z$  is a hydroxyl group.

The following examples illustrate Method C.

#### EXAMPLE VI

4 - PYRROLIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL -  $\alpha$  - METHYLTHIODIPHENYLACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—Methyl -  $\alpha$  - methylthiodiphenylacetate, 9.5 g. (0.035 mole) and 4.9 g. (0.035 mole) of 4-pyrrolidino-2-butyne were dissolved in 150 ml. of n-heptane, and about 50 mg. of sodium methoxide catalyst was added. The mixture was stirred and refluxed, and the heptane-methanol azeotrope was collected in a Dean Stark trap. After 0.4 ml. of azeotrope was collected in the trap, the reaction appeared to stop. The reaction mixture was cooled slightly, additional catalyst was added, and refluxing was resumed. The total amount of azeotrope collected was 0.85 ml. (theory, 1.1 ml.).

The reaction mixture was cooled, poured onto ice and water and the organic layer was separated and washed with water. The heptane solution was then extracted with 2 N hydrochloric acid and the acidic extract was washed with ether and then made alkaline with 10% sodium hydroxide. The freed base was then taken up in ether, and the ether solution was washed with water and dried over magnesium sulfate. The drying agent was filtered off and dry hydrochloric acid was passed into the ether solution to precipitate the hydrochloride salt: yield, 5.4

g., m.p. 154—156° C., from isopropyl alcohol.

#### EXAMPLE VII

4-DIMETHYLAMINO-2-BUTYNYL BENZILATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI from methyl benzilate and 4-dimethylamino-2-butyne [the latter prepared by reaction of 1-chloro-4-hydroxy-2-butyne and dimethylamine: b.p. 80—84° C. (0.55 mm.)  $n_D^{20}$  1.4764] using sodium metal catalyst. The free base product recrystallized from heptane melted at 102.5—105° C. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethylacetate-ethanol melted at 130—133° C.

#### EXAMPLE VIII

4-DIETHYLAMINO-2-BUTYNYL BENZILATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI, from 4-diethylamino-2-butyne and methyl benzilate, using sodium metal as catalyst for the transesterification reaction. The intermediate was prepared as follows:

To a stirring solution of 41.7 g. (0.57 mole) of diethylamine and 60 ml. of anhydrous benzene was added (within a few minutes) 24.5 g. (0.23 mole) of 1-chloro-4-hydroxy-2-butyne. The ensuing reaction was exothermic causing the reaction mixture to reflux. After the initial reaction subsided, the reaction mixture was refluxed for fifteen minutes and then allowed to cool to room temperature with continual stirring. The solid diethylamine hydrochloride was filtered off and the benzene was removed under reduced pressure. The residual oil was distilled in vacuo: b.p. 85—90° C. (0.45—0.5 mm.):  $n_D^{20}$  1.4793: yield, 25.2 g. (76.5%).

The hydrochloride salt of 4-diethylamino-2-butyne benzilate, recrystallized from ethylacetate-ethanol, melted at 128.5—130.5° C.

#### EXAMPLE IX

4 - PIPERIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL BENZILATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—This compound was pre-

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pared by the method of Example VI using sodium metal as a transesterification catalyst, from the methyl benzilate and 4-piperidino-2-butynol. The free base from heptane melted at 111.5–115° C. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethylacetate-ethanol, melted at 141.5–144° C.

## EXAMPLE X

4 - MORPHOLINO - 2 - BUTYNYL BENZIL-  
ATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI using sodium metal catalyst from methyl benzilate and 4-morpholino-2-butynol. [The 4-morpholino-2-butynol was prepared by reaction of morpholine and 1-chloro-4-hydroxy-2-butyne, b.p. 119–124° C. (0.9 mm.):  $n_D^{20}$  1.5091.] The free base from ethanol melted at 117.5–120° C. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethylacetate-ethanol melted at 158–160° C.

## EXAMPLE XI

4 - DIETHYLAMINO - 2 - BUTYNYL -  $\alpha$ -  
METHYLTHIODIPHENYLACETATE HYDRO-  
CHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI from methyl- $\alpha$ -methylthiodiphenylacetate [Becker et al. *Ber.* 47, 3149 (1914)], and 4-diethylamino-2-butynol. The hydrochloride recrystallized from ethyl acetate-ethanol, melted at 146–148° C.

## EXAMPLE XII

4 - PIPERIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL -  $\alpha$ -  
METHYLTHIODIPHENYLACETATE HYDRO-  
CHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI from methyl- $\alpha$ -methylthiodiphenylacetate and 4-piperidino-2-butynol. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethyl acetate: petroleum ether (Skellysolve B, b.p. 63–69° C.), melted at 171.5–173° C. Other salts were nitrate, m.p. 131.5–133.5° C., monohydrogen tartrate, m.p. 120–122.5° C., tartrate, m.p. 99–102° C.

## EXAMPLE XIII

4 - MORPHOLINO - 2 - BUTYNYL -  $\alpha$ -  
METHYLTHIODIPHENYLACETATE HYDRO-  
CHLORIDE.—This compound was prepared by the procedure of Example VI from methyl- $\alpha$ -methylthiodiphenylacetate and 4-morpholino-2-butynol. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethyl acetate-ethanol melted at 171–173.5° C.

## EXAMPLE XIV

4-DIETHYLAMINO-2-BUTYNYL PHENYL-  
 $\alpha$ -THIENYLGLYCOLATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—  
This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI from the methyl ester of phenyl -  $\alpha$  - thienylglycolic acid [Fischer esterification of the acid (Blicke & Tsao, J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 66 1645 (1944)) gave the ester; b.p. 130–133° C (0.65 mm.)  $n_D^{20}$  1.5709], and 4-diethylamino-2-butynol.

The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ether-benzene, pressure bottle, melted at 81.5–83.5° C.

## EXAMPLE XV

4-DIETHYLAMINO-2-BUTYNYL PHENYL-  
CYCLOHEXYLGLYCOLATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—  
This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI from the methyl ester of phenylcyclohexylglycolic acid [the ethyl ester of phenylcyclohexylglycolic acid—Smith et al. J. Amer. Chem. Soc. 75, 2654 (1953)—was converted to the methyl ester by hydrolysis followed by esterification; b.p. 114–119° C. (0.45 mm.);  $n_D^{20}$  1.5247] and 4-diethylamino-2-butynol. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethylacetate melted at 129–130° C.

## EXAMPLE XVI

4 - PIPERIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL -  $\alpha$  - METH-  
OXYDIPHENYLACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—  
This compound was prepared by the method of Example VI using metallic sodium as a catalyst from methyl diphenylmethoxyacetate and 4-piperidino-2-butynol. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethyl acetate-ethanol melted at 170.5–172° C.

## EXAMPLE XVII

4 - PIPERIDINO - 2 - BUTYNYL -  $\alpha$  - ETH-  
OXYDIPHENYLACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—  
This compound was prepared by the procedure of Example VI from methyl diphenyl-ethoxyacetate [prepared by Williamson ether synthesis from equimolar amounts of  $\alpha$ -bromo-methyl-benzilate and sodium ethoxide; b.p. 130–137° C., (0.55 mm.),  $n_D^{20}$  1.5454], and 4-piperidino-2-butynol. The hydrochloride salt recrystallized from ethyl acetate-ethanol melted at 173.5–175° C.

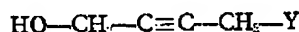
## EXAMPLE XVIII

4-DIETHYLAMINO-2-BUTYNYL PHENYL-  
CYCLOHEXYLGLYCOLATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—  
A mixture of 394.2 g. of methyl phenylcyclohexylglycolate, 293.1 g. of 4-diethylamino-2-butynyl acetate was dissolved with warming in 2.6 l. of n-heptane. The solution was heated with stirring to a temperature of 60–70° C. and 8.0 g. of sodium methoxide were added. The temperature of the mixture was then raised until the solvent began to distil. Distillation was continued at a gradual rate and aliquots of the distillate were successively collected and analyzed for the presence of methyl acetate by measurement of the refractive index. The reaction was completed when methyl acetate no longer distilled, and the refractive index observed was that of pure heptane ( $n_D^{20}$  1.3855). About three and one-half hours were required for the reaction to be completed. The reaction mixture was then allowed to cool to room temperature, washed with water, and extracted with four

165 ml. portions of 2 N hydrochloric acid. The aqueous extracts were combined and stirred at room temperature to permit crystallization of the hydrochloride salt of the desired product. Crystallization was completed by cooling the slurry in an ice bath, and the product was collected by filtration, pressed dry, and recrystallized from 750 ml. of water. Yield of pure crystalline material, 323 g.

#### METHOD D

In this method, an alpha-methoxydiphenylacetate or an alpha-ethoxydiphenylacetate of a 4-substituted amino-2-butynol of the formula



wherein Y is a di- $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_6$ -alkylamino, piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino radical, is prepared by heating and reacting a 4-substituted amino-2-butynol as above described with an alpha-halodiphenylacetyl halide and thereafter treating the reaction product with methanol or ethanol in an alkaline reaction medium and recovering the alpha-methoxydiphenyl acetate or alpha-ethoxydiphenylacetate product.

The following Example illustrates Method D.

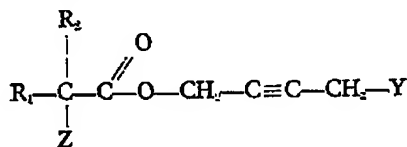
#### EXAMPLE XIX

4 - DIMETHYLAMINO - 2 - BUTYNYL - ALPHA-ETHOXY DIPHENYLACETATE HYDROCHLORIDE.—Equivalent amounts of alpha-chlorodiphenylacetyl chloride, 11.4 g. (0.043 mole), and 4-dimethylamino-2-butynol, 4.9 g., were mixed in a 100 ml. flask and heated with an oil bath at 100 to 105° C. for twenty-five minutes. Heating was continued at 70° C. for thirty minutes. The resultant brown viscous oil was washed thoroughly with anhydrous ether and then dissolved in 100 ml. of anhydrous ethanol. The ethanolic solution was refluxed for twenty-five hours with 5 g. sodium carbonate. The reaction mixture was cooled, filtered and made basic with 10% sodium hydroxide. Most of the ethanol was then removed under reduced pressure with the aid of a steam bath and the resultant aqueous mixture was extracted with ether. The ether layers were combined, washed with water and dried over magnesium sulphate. Anhydrous hydrogen chloride was then passed into the ether solution to prepare the hydrochloride salt; yield, 4.0 g. (24%); mp. 166.5–168.5° C., from ethyl acetate-ethanol.

While certain specific acid addition salts were shown in the foregoing examples, it should be understood that other nontoxic pharmacologically acceptable acid addition salts, such as hydrobromides, hydriodides, sulphates, phosphates, acetates, citrates, succinates, and benzoates can be readily prepared by techniques well known in the art.

#### WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A compound having the general formula



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is a phenyl, benzyl, cyclohexyl or alpha-thienyl group;  $\text{R}_2$  is a phenyl or benzyl group; Z is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxyl, methoxy, ethoxy or methylthio groups; and Y is a di- $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_6$ -alkylamino, piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino group; and the pharmacologically acceptable acid addition salts of these compounds.

2. A compound of the general formula given in claim 1 wherein Y is a dialkylamino group containing from 2 to 6 carbon atoms.

3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is phenyl or benzyl.

4. 4-Di- $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_6$ -alkylamino-2-butynyl benzilates.

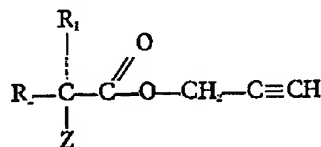
5. 4-Di- $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_3$ -alkylamino-2-butynyl benzilates.

6. 4-Diethylamino-2-butynyl-phenylcyclohexylglycolate.

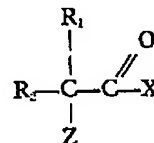
7. 4-Diethylamino-2-butynyl-benzilate.

8. 4-Piperidino-2-butynyl-alpha-methylthiodiphenylacetate.

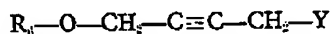
9. A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1 which comprises reacting a derivative of 1-propyne-3-ol having the general formula



with formaldehyde (e.g. in the form of para-formaldehyde) and a compound of the general formula  $\text{H}-\text{Y}$ ; or reacting a compound of the general formula



with a compound of the general formula



wherein in the above formulae  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$ , Y and Z are as defined in claim 1 and Z may also be a halogen atom, X is a halogen atom or a  $\text{C}_1$  to  $\text{C}_6$  alkoxy radical and  $\text{R}_3$  is a hydrogen atom or a formyl, acetyl or pro-

pionyl group, and, where Z is a halogen atom, hydrolytically cleaving Z to form the corresponding product wherein Z is a hydroxyl group.

- 5 10. A process according to the second part of claim 9 wherein X is chlorine, R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen, Y is a piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino group, and the acyl chloride is reacted with the 4-aminobutynol in the presence of an alkaline reaction medium.

- 10 11. A process according to the second part of claim 9 wherein X is a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy radical and R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, Y and Z are as defined therein, the compounds being reacted in the presence of a transesterification catalyst.

- 15 12. A process for preparing an alpha-methoxydiphenyl acetate or alpha-ethoxydiphenyl acetate of a 4-substituted amino-2-butynol of the general formula.



wherein Y is a di-C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>6</sub>-alkylamino,

piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino radical, which comprises heating and reacting a 4-substituted amino-2-butynol of the said general formula with an alpha-halodiphenyl acetyl halide, treating the reaction product with methanol or ethanol in an alkaline reaction medium and recovering the product of the process.

13. A process for preparing a pharmacologically acceptable acid-addition salt of a compound prepared in accordance with any one of claims 9 to 12 which comprises reacting the said compound with the acid corresponding to the acid radical in the required acid-addition salt.

14. A process for preparing a compound according to any of claims 1 to 8, substantially as herein described with particular reference to the Examples.

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